



Phoenix Rising



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U.S. Army Photo by Pfc. Adam C. Blazak, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

Military police Soldiers from 1st Special Troops Battlaion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division train on properly entering buildings at Forward Operating Base Raider. See Page 5 for story.

Phoenix soldiers working, training, rebuilding

By Lt. Col. Dave Hill
1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Phoenix Soldiers are in the fight! From company and battalion command posts, to combat patrols, maintainers and logisticians, Soldiers across the battalion are training hard every day at Forward Operating Base Raider. I've seen steady

improvement across the board and am proud of the effort by the Renegades (Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment), Hurricanes (Headquarters, Headquarters Company), Nighthawks (Company A) and Eagles (Company B).

Our focus right now for training and operations is command and control,

maintenance and patrol preparation as we build a strong foundation in the basic elements necessary to operate safely and successfully outside the wire.

Combat veterans and new Soldiers are working and learning together, side by side, as we reform the Phoenix Team.

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Phoenix Highlight ————— Spotlight on Headquarters, Headquarters Company

By 2nd Lt. Chelsea Sutton
HHC, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division is a force to be reckoned with at Forward Operating Base Raider. This multi faceted company is the backbone of the battalion, supporting victory on a daily basis.

HHC is conducting daily logistics package runs and route clearance, manning

Protective Services Details, Explosive Ordnance Disposal team security, Recovery Quick Reaction Force, and a Civil Affairs escort team missions. Additionally, HHC is supporting the battalion logistically.

The company's cooks are working with 4th Support Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. Soldiers to provide hot meals twice a day.

The Unit Maintenance Collect Point, otherwise known as the field motorpool, is a fully functioning entity. The

mechanics have been working late hours keeping the battalion's wheels turning.

With only two fuelers in the support platoon and no noncommissioned officers, fueling operations have still been running smoothly.

In addition to EOD and CA team missions, the military police platoon is preparing to conduct a live fire military operations in urban terrain exercise April 25.

Fourth Platoon, also known as the "Prowlers," have been working hard

protecting our battalion commander on his daily missions outside the wire.

Although the PSD missions have been uneventful so far, the Prowler Platoon is ready for the worst.



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Co. A, B, 1st STB Updates

By 1st Lt. Jordan Maxcey

Executive Officer, Co. A

"Nighthawks,"

1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

During the first week of deployment, the Nighthawks, Company A, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division could be found operating in multiple spectrums of the fight.

The Human Intelligence Platoon manned three HUMINT Collection Teams that conducted combat patrols with the Regulars of the 1st Bn., 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. and performed

tactical questioning of detainees. The HCTs were highly active and valuable during missions involving source meets, cordon and searches, Nahia meetings, and even a rescue mission for a kidnapped Soldier.

The Operations Management Team for the HCTs was also very heavily involved in the development of the training scenario and the distribution of numerous intelligence reports in support of the Regulars.

The operators and maintainers of the Tactical Unmanned Aerial System platoon provided support to both the Regular's company

team lane scenario and the 66th Military Intelligence Company from 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. The TUAS operators in the brigade tactical operations center provided simulated feed to the maneuver companies and the maintainers provided maintenance support to the pilots of the 3rd ACR.

Despite being very short manned, the Soldiers of the Signals Intelligence or Prophet Platoon were very involved in the development of the company lane scenario as well. The Soldiers developed intelligence reports to

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By Capt. Reggie Evans

Commander, Co. B "Eagles,"

1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Once again the Soldiers of Company B, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division are at it again. During this deployment, the company provides secure voice and data network support to the brigade and battalion headquarters. After months without equipment, Co. B received the brigade's full authorization of Joint Network Node and Line of Sight equipment.

On April 11, ahead of all other brigade elements, the company deployed early to

confront unforeseen configuration, hardware, and software issues. In addition, the operators retrained on specific systems regaining proficiency lost during the off season. Now mid-way through this deployment, the Eagles continue gaining momentum to the finish line.

1st Platoon - JNN Plt. 65 provides the brigade headquarters the backbone necessary to integrate the Army Battle Command Systems and the wide area network. With its superior operators, JNN 65 has not experienced any downtime since

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Photo by Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk, 13th Public Affairs Det.
Company B, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division's efforts keep Forward Operating Base Raider network ready.

Dog handlers, four-pawed partners

By Pfc. Tiffany Mercer
13th Public Affairs Det.

Trained to search from a distance and identify targets and weapons, the K-9s that work with the military police are an asset to the Soldiers they protect.

But what would man's best friend be without his handler?

That is where the 31 Bravos with their four-footed partners come in, the Echo 8s of the Army.

Sgt. Randy J. Jensen, with the 178th Military Police Detachment, 89th MP Brigade, has held that prestigious honor since he went through the Handler's School at Lackland Air Force Base from Nov. 1997 to Feb. 1998.

Jensen joined the U.S. Army in 1996 as an MP. Soon after, he decided that he wanted to work with a partner with paws, so he turned in a job change request and after it was approved, his career was forever changed.

While in school, Jensen learned alongside his new partner how they would work as a team. The handlers are taught how to work as a team with the dogs that they are assigned.

The dogs are taught how to find suspects, whether they are in a field or in a building, the K-9s learn how to find their targets no matter the location. The assorted breeds of dogs are also trained in the abilities to sniff out different items of importance, including weapons caches and narcotics.

The Modesto, Calif., native was able to put his training with search dogs to use while deployed to both Bosnia and Hungary where he spent



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Joy Pariente, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

Military working dogs such as Liaka are invaluable assets to their handlers. They can do many jobs including explosives and narcotics detection.

a respective six months each. While there he supported different political figures including the former secretary general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, former U.S. President George Bush and former Vice President Al Gore and aided them with searches.

Jensen has also deployed to Iraq where he worked specifically as law enforcement, which consisted of attacks and patrols. He was also sent out on different missions to assist units with sieges against suspected narcotics abusers.

After returning to the U.S., Jensen decided that he wanted to move on in his career by going into further development of his K-9 training skills. He returned to Lackland Air Force Base to complete the Specialized Search Dog Course, which he began in Aug. 2006 and completed Dec. 2006.

Since Aug. 2006 when he began his SSD school, Jensen worked with his three-year old Belgian Malinois, Kimberly. She is trained in all of the K-9 skills and he continues to train her each day.

He and his companion are currently deployed here with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division where he and his dog help during missions.

"This gets units used to seeing dogs and how to utilize them properly. It also accustoms the dogs with the different military vehicles like Bradleys," Jensen said.

Jensen plans to stay in the military for the time being. This is the job he has always wanted and plans to keep, he said.

"It's what I like to do. I want to work with K-9s as long as possible," he said with his cohort Kimberly standing by his side.

Dogs, handlers enhance 4ID readiness

**Story and photo by
Sgt. Joy Pariente**
13th Public Affairs Det.

In Iraq Soldiers can use all the high-tech tools they can get. However, some of the best explosives seeking technology available has four legs and a tail.

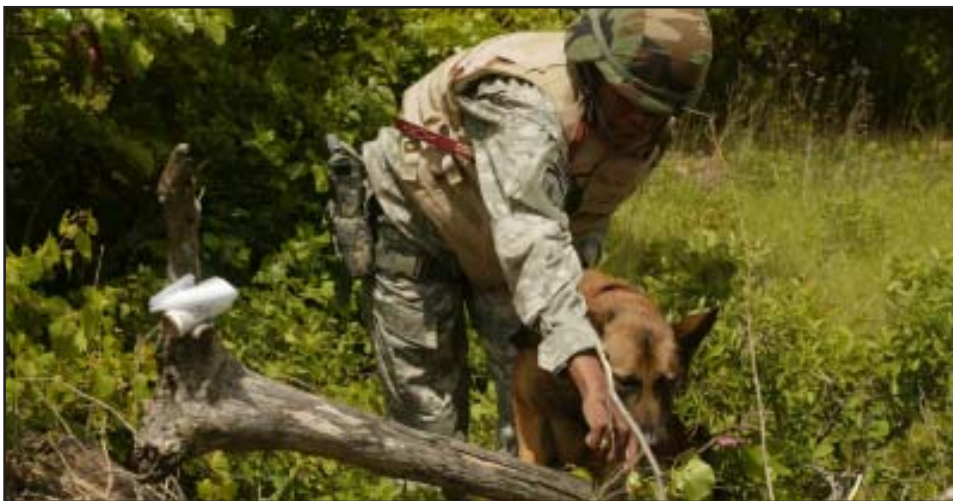
Military working dogs who specialize in explosives detection have been working with 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division to help Soldiers detect mines, improvised explosive devices and weapons caches. “If there’s any kind of explosive on it, she’ll find it,” said Sgt. Christina Billingsley, dog handler, 178th Military

Police Detachment, 89th Military Police Brigade, of her dog Liaka.

Liaka and Billingsley were on patrol with Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. in Karabila Saturday where Liaka found weapons hidden inside a tea house that had just been raided and an IED underneath some bushes.

The dog teams “enhance combat power,” said Capt. Andrea Leaman, provost marshal, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. “They [the dogs] have abilities we do not.”

Billingsley and Liaka work as a team. Billingsley leads Liaka to a suspect area and she searches until she finds something or the area is cleared. Since they spend much of their time in dangerous situations or training for those situations to arise, the bond between them, Billingsley said, is very strong. “It has to be very strong. You have to trust your MWD with your life.”



Sgt. Christina Billingsley, 178th Military Police Detachment, 89th MP Brigade, and her military working dog Liaka discover an improvised explosive device hidden under a bush.

MPs train to fight on FOB Raider

By Pfc. Tiffany Mercer
13th Public Affairs Det.

The Soldiers with 1st Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, moved through abandoned buildings on Forward Operating Base Raider while out doing Military Operations in Urban Terrain to further prepare themselves for what they will see off of the FOB.

The military police platoon, also known as the “Outlaws,” decided that while not out on missions, they would provide additional training to their Soldiers by gearing up and

heading out to increase their skills.

Staff Sgt. Orlando F. Ochoa, the platoon sergeant, decided that they could use their downtime to become more organized and work out all of the kinks that could pop up during a real mission.

“This training helps the Soldiers become more confident with their movements so when they do get into a hostile situation, they’re ready for it,” Ochoa added.

The Outlaws have not only been doing MOUT training, they have been improving their convoy escorting skills, teaching the correct procedures on how to search enemy prisoners of war, area reconnaissance and route

reconnaissance, Ochoa added.

Some of the Soldiers with 1st Plt. have deployed before, while others have not. “This training is pretty realistic, so it shows the new guys what to expect,” Ochoa said.

Spc. Espiridion S. Zuniga, an MP with the “Outlaws” 1st Squad, who has already been downrange, commented on how this type of training will further prepare them for what to expect.

“This helps refresh everybody, the new guys straight out of AIT [advanced individual training], and the ones that have already been to Iraq. It helps us to get the tactics down so they’re prepared,” Zuniga said.

UAV provides vital support to ground troops

By Pvt. Christopher M.
Gaylord

13th Public Affairs Det.

Missions can be highly stressful as an infantryman or ground troop. The job of a ground troop is one of the toughest and most dangerous jobs. Many times, the enemy could be just ahead of the troops. It is tough not knowing exactly what dangers await, but Unmanned Aerial Vehicles take much of the stress away and provide vital support to units on the ground.

The UAVs scout out the area for troops in the battlefield and conduct recons that allow the commanders of units on the ground to see the area before heading into it, said Staff Sgt. Jared B. Cornell, a UAV operator assigned to 4th Platoon, Company A, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The particular UAVs the Co. A, uses is the Shadow 200. They are about 13 feet from nose to tail, have a wingspan of about the same length and average 300 pounds in weight, said Spc. Raymond T. Poltera, a UAV maintenance specialist assigned to Co. A, 1st STB, 4th Inf. Div.

Poltera's job is to perform preventative maintenance checks and services on the UAVs and make sure they are fully mission capable.

"We get the bird off the ground safely," Poltera said. "While deployed, we work 12 hour shifts and launch one bird per hour."

"The UAVs have a camera on them that provides video feed to the commanders of any maneuver elements on the battlefield," Cornell said. "It has a laser pointer, so we can point out target houses, IEDs and

possible IED threats, insurgents, anyone who might be setting up ambushes, and redirect troops and assist Apaches."

The platoon operating the UAV has equipment at the area of control, called the Ground Data Terminal, that can receive the signal, control the vehicle and download the video feeds, and other commanders have Remote Video Terminals, which allow them to pick up the video, Cornell said.

Cornell's job is to either control the aircraft or operate the camera.

"The UAVs take two people to operate, and the operators rotate between controlling the aircraft and working the payloads [cameras]," Cornell said.

"The UAVs can be controlled from up to 100 kilometers away," Cornell said, "But we can transfer control of the UAVs to other units once they have been launched."

Cornell must coordinate with air traffic controllers in order to determine air space and with intelligence for missions, and talk directly with maintenance to make sure the system software is loaded properly and the weather is good, Cornell said.

The vehicles are equipped with infrared capabilities and so provide video feeds at night, and heat sensors, which help to detect weapons caches in the ground and points of origin where mortars were fired at troops, Cornell said.

There are times when enemies and insurgents had been spotted on rooftops and pointed out by UAVs, Cornell said.

The UAVs have even been used in support of explosives ordnance disposal to loiter, or hover around in circles, above areas designated by explosives ordnance disposal, to point out IEDs or IED threats, Cornell said.

The UAVs have a push engine, with the propeller located in the rear of the vehicle.

Overall, Co. A, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. has an extremely important job.

"It's our sole purpose with the UAVs to give the troops on the ground guidance, and it makes us feel we're doing a good job when the troops see the results on the ground," Cornell said. "We can be that extra little support that gets the insurgent or saves somebody's life."



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Susan M. Redwine, 159th Combat Action Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

Shadow unmanned aerial vehicles provide a visual overview of the battlefield for commanders on the ground. This Shadow is landing after a mission.

PSYOP: Bringing information to the masses

By Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO

When information needs to be disseminated inside and around the battlefield, Psychological Operations steps in with all the necessary equipment, man-power and skills to put information on the streets. A 37 Foxtrot is a Psychological Operations Specialist and their main purpose in the Army is to get the right information out quickly.

"The primary purpose of the PSYOP military occupational specialty is to change a target audience's actions and behaviors toward host nation and U.S. national goals and objectives using all forms of media," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher L. Williams, information operations noncommissioned officer staff planner, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The psyopers, as they refer to themselves, have an array of available media at their disposal such as leaflets, loud-speaker truck broadcasts, television commercials, movies, radio broadcasts, print or anything that can be seen or heard.

At the brigade, Williams advises the brigade commander on how to use PSYOP. Downrange, there is a PSYOP detachment with three or four teams that consist of three Soldiers and a loud-speaker truck, Williams said. He also plans where and how the PSYOP teams could be used to their full potential.

"Right now in country, we have



Sgt. 1st Class Christopher L. Williams, information operations noncommissioned officer staff planner, heads up the PSYOP mission for 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

about 300 to 400 different types of available media at our disposal," Williams said. Any of which could be printed and ready for distribution in about seven days, he added.

Williams has 15 years of experience in the MOS, and he filled the first PSYOP position ever in the Raider Brigade before Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07. Williams has done both sides of the PSYOP mission, strategic and tactical.

Strategic operations in Iraq take place mainly in the International Zone where Soldiers use de-confliction methods and the coordination of all the operations in the PSYOP effort, Williams said.

In Iraq, most of the PSYOP mission is taking place is on the tactical side of the MOS.

"Tactical operations in Iraq consist of loud-speaker monkeys. That is what they call themselves.

They use the loud-speaker trucks to play mini-discs with messages or sounds that are spoken in the Arabic language so all they do is hit the play button," said Williams.

"You don't just go out there and assume that the target audience wants to hear whatever," Williams said. "You actually have to methodically break down what the susceptibilities and vulnerabilities of that target audience are.

Next break down the target audience. There are thousands of possible target audiences in Iraq. It could be by religion, age, location, sex, or status in society. So in order to get them to change their attitudes and behaviors we have to find what their vulnerabilities are and exploit them. That is what drives the PSYOP product that we produce."

Once this analysis has been

Co. A, from Page 3

fuel further combat missions and rolled out with the infantry Soldiers to provided simulated SIGINT support.

In addition, the Control Ground Station Operators ran two missions and provided intelligence reports to the Brigade. The Trojan operators set-up their system and provided high and low side connectivity to

the Brigade TOC.

The Intelligence Electronic Warfare operators provided maintenance and technical expertise essential to the set-up and on-going operations on the company's intelligence systems.

Finally, the Soldiers of the Headquarters Platoon have maintained the company by

running the orderly, supply, and arms rooms. These Soldiers also rolled outside the wire to run logistical convoys back to the rear to facilitate mission and replenish supplies.

Although only a week has passed, the Nighthawks have accomplished much and have reason to be proud.

PSYOP, from Page 7

completed and approved, it is sent out as a test to see what the reaction is and if the product is effective. "We do a pre-test on a small group of people with the product to see how well the product does. After that, we conduct a review to see if there are any ways to make the product better or whether the product was effective at all. It is a constant operation that requires changes," said Williams.

Williams described one instance of PSYOP in action.

"One aspect of the PSYOP job is that it can be a huge combat multiplier on the battlefield. In Operation Desert Storm, we dropped surrender leaflets over a company of Iraqi soldiers that said if you don't surrender at two o'clock today, you will be bombed and killed. They didn't surrender and we dropped bombs. Afterwards, we dropped more leaflets on the next company of soldiers, and sure enough about 30,000 of them came walking up with the leaflets in hand," said Williams.

"The worst enemy of the U.S. Army is ignorance. If the Iraqi people are informed of what is going on, then that is our greatest

asset," said Williams. Ninety-nine percent of our product is factual information. All we do is put out the facts, and that is to persuade the target audience's opinion toward us or whoever we want. If you want to keep your organization's credibility then you never lie. Just tell them the truth that you want them to read, he added.

Although hitting buttons to play messages or dropping off leaflets sounds like a simple job, there is far more to the PSYOP field than that.

To become a PSYOP Soldier, the candidate must first graduate airborne school. Then the candidate attends a three month advanced individual training to get the basics of the MOS. Next there is more on-the-job training, Williams said.

Positions in the PSYOP MOS have doubled recently due to a huge push for the growing need throughout the Army. The need for this type of information to make it to the audience's hand has also doubled. Although candidates can enter into the PSYOP MOS as a private, Williams said that most Soldiers are re-classing to join the organization.

Co. B, from Page 3

establishing their link on April 16. 1st Plt. continues to be a Brigade combat multiplier.

2nd Platoon - The mighty JNN 66 has relocated its platoon and equipment twice for mission requirements. Currently they provide the command and control structure for the Phoenix TOC. Just like 1st Plt., JNN 66 has not dropped its link since coming in system on April 16.

Due in large part to 1st Plt. and 2nd Plt.'s contributions, the Raider Brigade has maintained unfettered command and control throughout this deployment. Eagle Soldiers remain *DAMN LETHAL* in their core skills.

